

# PROTECTING YOUR PRETEENS AND TEENS FROM WHOOPING COUGH WITH Tdap

**WHOOPING COUGH** (medical name: Pertussis) is a serious illness that spreads easily—and it's on the rise in the U.S. It starts out like a normal cold, but can become far worse, with severe coughing that may last for months. It can also lead to pneumonia, trouble sleeping, vomiting, lost school for children and lost work for parents.

In 2004, there were nearly 20,000 cases of Pertussis in the U.S.—the most in 40 years. Whooping cough vaccines given to young children are effective initially, but begin to wear off in preteen years.

School children are one of the largest groups of people who get whooping cough. *This means preteens and teenagers may now be at high risk.*

*The best protection for your preteen or teenager is a Pertussis booster shot.* Previously there was no vaccine available in the U.S. to protect this age group—but that has changed with the introduction of two Pertussis booster vaccines for children ages 10 to 18.

## **Tdap—TWO VACCINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF PERTUSSIS**

Two Tdap vaccines were licensed by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) in 2005. Both vaccines may be given as a booster to prevent three diseases: Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap). All three diseases are caused by bacterial infection and are serious and potentially life-threatening.

On June 30, 2005, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend newly licensed Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis booster vaccines (Tdap) to help reduce the number of cases of Pertussis among adolescents.

The ACIP has recommended:

- Adolescents 11 and 12 years of age be given Tdap in place of the tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster currently given to adolescents.
- Adolescents 13 through 18 who missed the 11- to 12-year dose of Td be given Tdap.

Vaccine providers should administer Tdap and the meningococcal vaccine Menactra™ at the same visit if both vaccines are due and available.

Tdap should be administered during the same visit if other vaccines are due. Each vaccine should be administered using a separate syringe.

Tdap is a vaccine that adds Pertussis protection to Td vaccine booster shots your child regularly receives.

*More on reverse side.*



# PROTECTING YOUR PRETEENS AND TEENS FROM WHOOPING COUGH WITH Tdap CONTINUED

## **VACCINATION WITH Tdap CAN GREATLY REDUCE THE RISK OF GETTING WHOOPING COUGH, DIPHTHERIA OR TETANUS**

Tdap has been demonstrated to be safe. However, as with all vaccines, some reactions (soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site, headache or tiredness) can happen. Other side effects may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and/or stomach pain. Persons with known severe allergic reactions to any component of the vaccine should avoid vaccination. As with any vaccine, rare or unexpected side effects may occur and vaccination may not protect everyone receiving the vaccine.



**If you have questions or concerns  
about immunizations or vaccines,**  
call the public health nurses at the Immunization  
Program, between 8am and 4:30pm Monday–Friday:  
**603-271-4482** toll free **800-852-3345 x4482**

**NH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Division of Public Health Services  
Immunization Program**

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<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/IMMUNIZATION>

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To learn more about Tdap vaccine,  
go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/ed>

